

course despite the come back of the Democrats in the recently held US mid-term polls; and

(b) what implications the recently held North Korean Nuclear test would have on the Indo-US Nuclear treaty and of the possibilities of Iran venturing a nuclear device test in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The Indo-US nuclear understanding enjoys broad bi-partisan support reflected in the large majorities by which both Republicans and Democrats voted in favour of the Bills to enable full civil nuclear energy cooperation with India in the US House of Representatives and the Senate. Out of 201 Democrats in the House of Representatives, 140 voted in favour of the Bill. In the Senate, where the vote took place after the mid-term election results were announced, 32 out of 44 Democrats voted for the Bill. Support from the Democrats included senior Democratic leaders in both the House.

(b) The India-US nuclear understanding is based on its own merits with a view to addressing India's growing energy requirements. It cannot be linked either to North Korea's nuclear test or Iran's nuclear policy.

Allotment of land and buildings in public interest

***234. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA:** Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government allot land and buildings to institutions and persons in public interest;

(b) how much land has been allotted in the years, 2004-05 and 2005-06 to such identified institutions and people by Government in Delhi;

(c) whether it is a fact that a large number of applications for such valuable land have been rejected;

(d) if so, the system Government have in place to allot land to some applicants and then reject others; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) Apart from allotment of land to various Government agencies, the Land & Development Office allots land in Delhi to the registered Trusts

and Societies registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 for social, religious, cultural and educational activities.

As per the current procedure, the allotment of land to such institutions is based on the recommendations of a Screening Committee duly constituted by the Ministry to examine and screen the applications in terms of their eligibility for allotment.

Detailed guidelines have also been issued prescribing norms to scrutinize/process the applications and to screen the requests for allotment of land by the Land & Development Office.

No recommendation for allotment of land for private institutions/individual was made by the Screening Committee for the year 2004-05 and 2005-06 due to scarcity of land available for allotment and non-fulfillment of the norms, etc. Hence, no land was allotted by the Land & Development Office for private institutions/individuals during the year 2004-05 and 2005-06.

In so far the Delhi Development Authority is concerned, in addition to allotments to Government bodies, land is allotted to Societies for religious and residual categories subject to fulfillment of criteria prescribed for the purpose at zonal variant rates. Land for other categories of institutions is disposed of through auction. During 2004-05 and 2005-06, land measuring 400 Sq. mt. was allotted to only one society for religious purpose.

Efforts for being a Super Power

†*235. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that China is trying to increase its influence of being a super power on African countries while India is far behind in its efforts of being a super power in the economic and other fields; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government on the action to be taken in this direction during the coming years?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Government is aware of recent developments in China's relations with Africa. India's multifaceted and friendly relations with Africa are also growing steadily and Government attaches great importance to strengthening these traditional ties. India's role in supporting Africa during its fight against apartheid and colonialism, her technical assistance and capacity building programmes, and her contributions to

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.